AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Original): An optical film in which a polarizing plate and plural retardation films are laminated so that an absorption axis of the polarizing plate is perpendicular or parallel to slow axes of the plural retardation films and the slow axes of the plural retardation films are parallel to one another, wherein

an Nz value expressed by $Nz = (nx_1 - nz_1)/(nx_1 - ny_1)$ is in the range of from 0.15 to 0.85 and

an in-plane retardation Re_1 expressed by $Re_1 = (nx_1 - ny_1) \times d_1$ is in the range of from 200 to 350 nm,

where in each of the plural retardation films, a direction along with the refractive index in the film plane is maximum is defined as the X-axis, a direction perpendicular to the X-axis as the Y-axis, the thickness direction of the film as the Z-axis, and where refractive indices in each axial direction are defined as nx_1, ny_1, and nz_1, respectively, and the thickness of the film as d_1 (nm).

2. (Original): The optical film according to claim 1, wherein a retardation film (a) and a retardation film (b) are laminated in this order from the polarizing plate side, and the absorption axis of the polarizing plate is parallel to the slow axes of the two retardation films,

the retardation film (a) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.65 to 0.85, and

the retardation film (b) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.15 to 0.35.

3. (Original): The optical film according to claim 1, wherein a retardation film (b) and a retardation film (a) are laminated in this order from the polarizing plate side, and the absorption axis of the polarizing plate is perpendicular to the slow axes of the two retardation films,

the retardation film (a) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.65 to 0.85, and

the retardation film (b) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.15 to 0.35.

4. (Currently amended): The optical film according to claim 2 [[or 3]], wherein the absolute value of a difference in Nz value between the retardation film (a) and the retardation film (b) is in the range of from 0.4 to 0.6.

5. (Currently amended): The optical film according to any one of claims 1 to 4 claim 1, wherein the optical film is a laminate in which the plural retardation films are laminated on one side of the polarizing plate obtained by laminating a transparent protective film on both sides of a polarizer so that the absorption axis of the polarizing plate is perpendicular or parallel to the slow axes of the plural retardation film and the slow axes of the plural retardation films are parallel to one another.

6. (Original): The optical film according to Claim 5, wherein the transparent protective film laminated on at least one side of the polarizing plate comprises a thermoplastic resin (A) having a substituted and/or non-substituted imide group in a side chain and a thermoplastic resin (B) having substituted and/or non-substituted phenyl group, and nitrile group in a side chain.

7. (Currently amended): The optical film according to Claim 5 [[or 6]], wherein

an in-plane retardation expressed by $Re_2 = (nx_2 - ny_2) \times d_2$ is 20 nm or less, and

a thickness direction retardation expressed by $Rth = \{(nx_2 + ny_2) / 2 - nz_2\} \times d_2$ is 30 nm or less,

where in the transparent protective film laminated on at least one side of the polarizing plate, a direction along with the refractive index in the film plane is maximum is defined as the X-axis, a direction perpendicular to the X-axis as the Y-axis, the thickness direction of the film as the Z-axis, and where refractive indices in each axial direction are defined as nx_2, ny_2, and nz_2, respectively, and the thickness of the film as d_2 (nm).

8. (Currently amended): The optical film according to any one of Claims 5 to 7 claim 6, wherein the transparent protective film is a film that is treated by stretching process.

9. (Currently amended): A image viewing display comprising, the optical film according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1.

10. (Currently amended): A liquid crystal display in IPS mode,

wherein the optical film according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1 is arranged on a cell substrate on a viewing side,

a polarizing plate comprising a transparent protective film laminated on both sides of a polarizer is arranged on a cell substrate opposite to the viewing side, and

an extraordinary refractive index direction of a liquid crystalline substance in a liquid crystal cell and an absorption axis of the polarizing plate are parallel, in a state where voltage is not applied.

11. (Currently amended): A liquid crystal display in IPS mode,

wherein a polarizing plate comprising a transparent protective film laminated on both sides of a polarizer is arranged on a cell substrate on a viewing side,

the optical film according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1 is arranged on a cell substrate opposite to the viewing side, and

an extraordinary refractive index direction of a liquid crystalline substance in a liquid crystal cell and an absorption axis of the optical film are perpendicular, in a state where voltage is not applied.

12. (Currently amended): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 10 [[or 11]], wherein the transparent protective film laminated on at least one side of the polarizing plate comprises a thermoplastic resin (A) having a substituted and/or non-substituted imide group in a side chain and a thermoplastic resin (B) having a substituted and/or non-substituted phenyl group, and a nitrile group in a side chain.

13. (Currently amended): The liquid crystal display according to ~~any one of Claims 10 to 12~~ claim 10, wherein

an in-plane retardation expressed by $Re_2 = (nx_2 - ny_2) \times d_2$ is 20 nm or less, and

a thickness direction retardation expressed by $Rth = \{(nx_2 + ny_2) / 2 - nz_2\} \times d_2$ is 30 nm or less,

where in the transparent protective film laminated on at least one side of the polarizing plate, a direction along with the refractive index in the film plane is maximum is defined as the X-axis, a direction perpendicular to the X-axis as the Y-axis, the thickness direction of the film as the Z-axis, and where refractive indices in each axial direction are defined as nx_2, ny_2, and nz_2, respectively, and the thickness of the film as d_2 (nm).

14. (Currently amended): The liquid crystal display according to ~~any one of Claims 10 to 13~~ claim10, wherein the transparent protective film is a film that is treated by stretching process.

15. (New): The optical film according to claim 3, wherein the absolute value of a difference in Nz value between the retardation film (a) and the retardation film (b) is in the range of from 0.4 to 0.6.

16. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein the transparent protective film laminated on at least one side of the polarizing plate comprises a thermoplastic resin (A) having a substituted and/or non-substituted imide group in a side chain and a thermoplastic resin (B) having a substituted and/or non-substituted phenyl group, and a nitrile group in a side chain.

17. (New):   The liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein

an in-plane retardation expressed by $Re_2 = (nx_2 - ny_2) \times d_2$ is 20 nm or less, and

a thickness direction retardation expressed by $Rth = \{(nx_2 + ny_2) / 2 - nz_2\} \times d_2$ is 30 nm or less,

where in the transparent protective film laminated on at least one side of the polarizing plate, a direction along with the refractive index in the film plane is maximum is defined as the X-axis, a direction perpendicular to the X-axis as the Y-axis, the thickness direction of the film as the Z-axis, and where refractive indices in each axial direction are defined as nx_2, ny_2, and nz_2, respectively, and the thickness of the film as d_2 (nm).

18. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein the transparent protective film is a film that is treated by stretching process.

19. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 10, wherein, in the optical film, a retardation film (a) and a retardation film (b) are laminated in this order from the polarizing plate side, and the absorption axis of the polarizing plate is parallel to the slow axes of the two retardation films,

the retardation film (a) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.65 to 0.85, and

the retardation film (b) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.15 to 0.35.

20. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 10, wherein, in the optical film, a retardation film (b) and a retardation film (a) are laminated in this order from the polarizing plate side, and the absorption axis of the polarizing plate is perpendicular to the slow axes of the two retardation films,

the retardation film (a) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.65 to 0.85, and

the retardation film (b) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.15 to 0.35.

21. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 10, wherein, in the optical film, the absolute value of a difference in Nz value between the retardation film (a) and the retardation film (b) is in the range of from 0.4 to 0.6.

22. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 10, wherein, in the optical

film,the optical film is a laminate in which the plural retardation films are laminated on one side of the polarizing plate obtained by laminating a transparent protective film on both sides of a polarizer so that the absorption axis of the polarizing plate is perpendicular or parallel to the slow axes of the plural retardation film and the slow axes of the plural retardation films are parallel to one another.

23. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 10, wherein, in the optical film, the transparent protective film laminated on at least one side of the polarizing plate comprises a thermoplastic resin (A) having a substituted and/or non-substituted imide group in a side chain and a thermoplastic resin (B) having substituted and/or non-substituted phenyl group, and nitrile group in a side chain.

24. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 10, wherein, in the optical film,

an in-plane retardation expressed by $Re_2 = (nx_2 - ny_2) \times d_2$ is 20 nm or less, and

a thickness direction retardation expressed by $Rth = \{(nx_2 + ny_2) / 2 - nz_2\} \times d_2$ is 30 nm or less,

where in the transparent protective film laminated on at least one side of the polarizing plate, a direction along with the refractive index in the film plane is maximum is defined as the X-axis, a direction perpendicular to the X-axis as the Y-axis, the thickness direction of the film as the Z-axis, and where refractive indices in each axial direction are defined as nx_2, ny_2, and nz_2, respectively, and the thickness of the film as d_2 (nm).

25. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 10, wherein, in the optical film, the transparent protective film is a film that is treated by stretching process.

26. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 10, wherein, in the optical film, the absolute value of a difference in Nz value between the retardation film (a) and the retardation film (b) is in the range of from 0.4 to 0.6.

27. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein, in the optical film, a retardation film (a) and a retardation film (b) are laminated in this order from the polarizing plate side, and the absorption axis of the polarizing plate is parallel to the slow axes of the two retardation films,

the retardation film (a) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.65 to 0.85, and

the retardation film (b) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.15 to 0.35.

28. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein, in the optical film, a retardation film (b) and a retardation film (a) are laminated in this order from the polarizing plate side, and the absorption axis of the polarizing plate is perpendicular to the slow axes of the two retardation films,

the retardation film (a) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.65 to 0.85, and

the retardation film (b) has an Nz value in the range of from 0.15 to 0.35.

29. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein, in the optical film, the absolute value of a difference in Nz value between the retardation film (a) and the retardation film (b) is in the range of from 0.4 to 0.6.

30. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein, in the optical film,the optical film is a laminate in which the plural retardation films are laminated on one side of the polarizing plate obtained by laminating a transparent protective film on both sides of a polarizer so that the absorption axis of the polarizing plate is perpendicular or parallel to the slow axes of the plural retardation film and the slow axes of the plural retardation films are parallel to one another.

31. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein, in the optical film, the transparent protective film laminated on at least one side of the polarizing plate comprises a

thermoplastic resin (A) having a substituted and/or non-substituted imide group in a side chain and a thermoplastic resin (B) having substituted and/or non-substituted phenyl group, and nitrile group in a side chain.

32. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein, in the optical film, an in-plane retardation expressed by $Re_2 = (nx_2 - ny_2) \times d_2$ is 20 nm or less, and

a thickness direction retardation expressed by $Rth = \{(nx_2 + ny_2) / 2 - nz_2\} \times d_2$ is 30 nm or less,

where in the transparent protective film laminated on at least one side of the polarizing plate, a direction along with the refractive index in the film plane is maximum is defined as the X-axis, a direction perpendicular to the X-axis as the Y-axis, the thickness direction of the film as the Z-axis, and where refractive indices in each axial direction are defined as nx_2, ny_2, and nz_2, respectively, and the thickness of the film as d_2 (nm).

33. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein, in the optical film, the transparent protective film is a film that is treated by stretching process.

34. (New): The liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein, in the optical film, the absolute value of a difference in Nz value between the retardation film (a) and the retardation film (b) is in the range of from 0.4 to 0.6.